

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the Abstract of the Specification as indicated below, wherein markup is employed to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version:

~~It is an object of this invention to provide~~ The invention provides  
an image reading apparatus for performing high-precision image read by  
canceling out noise based on digital signal processing and superimposed on an  
effective portion of an analog signal. ~~In order to achieve this object, the~~ The  
image reading apparatus superimposes digital-based data and data-clock-based  
fixed noise on an sensor output signal in reference data acquiring operation as  
well to output data with the fixed data being canceled out in image read-operation.  
~~The number of image read data may greatly differ from the number of data in~~  
~~reference data acquiring operation depending on the resolution, and the dummy~~  
~~clock output timing in reference data acquiring operation may differ from the data~~  
~~output timing in image read operation. To avoid such a situation, appropriate~~  
~~timings are selected/set for each resolution, with the clock output timing in~~  
~~reference data acquiring operation matching the data/clock output timing in image~~  
~~read operation, by selecting the number of data output terminals.~~